

REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of Sept. 29, 2011 is gratefully acknowledged.

The application with claims 11, 15, 17, 18 and 21 has been examined with the following results: claims 11, 15, 17, 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as indefinite; and claims 11, 15, 17, 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Storm in view of Burkle et al

Regarding the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, claims 11, 15 and 21 have been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.


Regarding the rejection under 35 USC 103(a), claim 11 has been amended and new claim 22 added to better define the invention over the art of record.

STORM and/or BURKLE do not, it is respectfully submitted, disclose that older field devices, converter units and/or newer field devices communicate with the control room according to the first data transmission technology and the second data transmission technology on the same existing signal line. An advantage of the synchronous communication with the conventional first data transmission technology and the first data transmission technology with a greater data transmission rate on the same existing signal line is that a costly replacement of the existing signal lines is not necessary. [see page 2, first paragraph of the specification].

In view of the foregoing, further consideration in view of the filing of the RCE application and the above amendments to the claims is respectfully requested, and claims 11, 15, 17, 18, 21 and 22 found allowable over the Storm and Burkle et al references for the reasons stated above.

Date: February 29, 2012

Respectfully submitted,
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC



Felix D. D'Ambrosio
Attorney for Applicant

Registration Number 25,721

Customer Number *23364*

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Telephone: (703) 683-0500

Facsimile: (703) 683-1080

S:\Producer\fd\CLIENTS\Endress+Hauser Holding GmbH\ABBO3004-EH0675\Feb. 29, 2012 response.wpd